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LETTER DATED 27 APRIL 1999 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have been instructed by my Government to inform that the Yugoslav side has fully complied with the provisions of all relevant Security Council resolutions since the establishment of the blue and yellow demilitarized zones in the area of Prevlaka, whereas the Croatian side has transformed the yellow zone into an area over-saturated with military facilities and personnel. On countless occasions, the Croatian side has violated the United Nations-mandated regime in the blue zone which is under the inviolable control of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP) of which all relevant Security Council factors are well aware, including the authors of the most recent report of the Secretary-General of 9 April 1999 (S/1999/404).

To defend itself from the aggression of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has declared the state of war. With the exclusive aim of implementing and carrying out the regulations adopted in connection with the state of war and the defence of the country from outside aggression, the Army of Yugoslavia has set up a checkpoint in the yellow zone numbering 20 men. The setting up of the checkpoint does not threaten the security of UNMOP members or any other person. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia continues to fully respect the UNMOP mandate and, in the conditions of the state of war and the defence from aggression, takes every measure to ensure its continued and unhindered functioning. Once the aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is ceased, the need for this checkpoint will also cease to exist.

In that connection, I would like to point out that on 23 April 1999, the Commander of the Yugoslav Navy received the Chief Military Observer and advised him of all relevant data related to the setting up of the checkpoint of the Army of Yugoslavia. On that occasion the request of UNMOP that its office at Herzeg Novi, abandoned by UNMOP at the beginning of the aggression of its own accord and without any pressure from the Yugoslav side whatsoever, continue work was positively resolved. The competent Yugoslav authorities also reiterated the guarantee of full safety to the members of the Mission and agreed to establish a direct permanent connection of the competent command of the Army of Yugoslavia and UNMOP.

It is evident from the aforementioned that the protest of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the United Nations of 20 April 1999 is groundless and calculated to use the NATO brutal aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to achieve its own goals. Once the criminal aggression of NATO has ceased, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will resume the talks aimed at finding a mutually acceptable solution of this disputed territorial issue.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Charge d'affaires a.i.